July 31, 1973

Dear Harold,

Sorry to be so long between letters. It looks like I may be able to do a Rife piece but not for some weeks. I talked to his Ill. Defenders Project attorney and the guy is interested although a bit leary of the escape business. Because we now have a new Constitution in Illinois there may be a mass reduction in sentences of those convicted prior. The new law now limits burglary sentences to a max of 20 years or so. In the case of marijuanna convictions they have already gone back and reduced sentences en masse. There is some movement to do this in other cases.

The brother was pissed at you because of the severity of that letter you wrote. He told me that Bud had told him that when you get to tough that brother should just come on equally as tough. That resulted in his responding letter. (don't tell him that.) He also thinks that you are automatically against some people because they are racists.

He said that James would not make his move until Fensterwald was out of the picture. In the prior conversation he mentioned both bud and you.

He called last week to ask my advice on talking to Jesse Jackson. He wanted to send Jackson a letter asking for a talk and send copies to the newspapers. I told him the papers idea was bad, just send to Jackson. He said he would. I also cautioned him that Jackson is a publicity hound. He said he would not give any ideas of what is to happen. I doubt if Jackson will talk to him. I sent brother a copy of that Abernathy tape from last year. He liked it.

The only signifigant thing I think I left out of the phone conversation was the fact he said James told him that the FBI would be "embarassed" by his revealations, but that they were not directly involved. He said James did not explain this and he did not understand what it might mean. I suggested that the FBI may have had a 24-hour tail on the subject as well as a 24-hour bug.

Stone does not like me much, true. I will survive. The first story, which is enclosed--has prompted a tip on a second which the Sun-Times is also working on. Allegedly Stone paid several thousand cash to a minor Republican functionary in Illinois to perform sort-of clean dirty tricks. This involved helping the McGovern people defeat Muskie on the theory that Muskie would do better in Illinois and would help other Dems. down the ticket. He operated in and out of Illinois.

This story is pretty much stalled and the Sun-Times is also working it. Is the committee out of business. I got the enclosed letter back. Please give to Jim when you see him.

I agree that Executive Action is mostly crap. But I think it will help get the basic idea across to a lot of people who cannot be fazed by facts and reasoning.

Pauley